



AccionSIDA Workplan

October 1, 2000 - September 30, 2001

Cooperative Agreement 517-A-00-97-07103-00

USAID/DR Project #517-0276

Narrative

This narrative accompanies the attached timeline of proposed activities for the fourth year of the AcciónSIDA project, under the cooperative agreement between USAID/DR and the Academy for Educational Development. The project is based in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and is national in scope. The structure for this workplan follows the five sub-result areas that form the HIV/AIDS strategy developed by the USAID/DR mission for this project.

I. Deliverables/Reports

- A. **Annual Workplans:** After the first year, will be developed and submitted for approval by September 30 each calendar year.
- B. **Evaluation Plan:** Annual revisions and updates will be submitted for each calendar year by January 30. AcciónSIDA will use combination of AED staff resources and consultants in developing and implementing the evaluation plan.
- C. **Quarterly Reports:** Will be submitted for the corresponding quarters ending on the last day of December, March, June and September, respectively.

II. AcciónSIDA Project Activities

A. NGO Grants Program:

The NGO Grants Program continues to be the primary channel for sub-result area inputs under this project. In this fourth year, the focus of the NGO grants will be to consolidate existing programs, continue replication of activities where possible, and focus on long-term sustainability strategies for both institutional and project goals. Since this is a year heavily affected by governmental transition, NGOs are encouraged to aggressively seek opportunities for collaboration and contractual relationships with the new public sector leadership, as well as commercial resources in order to expand the role and responsibilities of these sectors.

Monitoring:

The complete NGO Grants team has been in place since March 2000 and is responsible for the ongoing monitoring of technical and financial aspects of all grant activities. This team works closely with the Technical Assistance team to provide quick feedback and recommendations for improvement.

Upgrading of NGO Systems:

A revision and re-design of the NGOs reporting system to AcciónSIDA has been completed and a new Excel-based system has been designed and installed in most of the NGOs. During the first quarter of this current year the installation and training for use of this new integrated system will be completed. It should make NGO reporting functions easier and more timely, and provide better quality information for USAID's reporting needs as well.

During the second quarter AcciónSIDA will finalize the revision and upgrading of the NGOs' data collection system. This upgrading will contribute to improve the quality of project activities and outputs.

Development of Data Base:

During the second quarter AcciónSIDA will also develop a database of all grant-funded interventions. This database shall supply AED/AcciónSIDA, USAID or any other organization or individual information about the supported STI/HIV/AIDS interventions in a prompt and accurate manner. This database should be able to provide information on each individual intervention but also in regards to specific variables such as audiences, geographic zones, etc.

Termination and Renewal of Projects:

During this new fiscal year four of the projects being implemented will terminate (PROPAS, ADOPLAFAM, ASA and Grupo CLARA). The extension of these projects will be determined by the results of a rapid assessment to determine their performance in regards to the established process indicators and their compliance with AcciónSIDA programmatic and financial requirements. Formative research will also be conducted on each of these interventions to determine what actions must be taken to strengthen these interventions in a next phase.

Two other projects that had been previously supported by AcciónSIDA (Bateyes and AIDS NGO Coalition) will also be considered for renewal. The bateyes proposal has already been submitted and is being reviewed. Funding will probably initiate in October/00. The Coalition proposal is expected to be submitted to AcciónSIDA by November or December.

Rapid Response Funds:

Through this funding mechanism AcciónSIDA will continue to support short-term activities that contribute to or complement current STI/HIV/AIDS projects and activities.

B. Institutional Development/Capacity Building:

During this new fiscal year AcciónSIDA will continue with its NGO institutional development and capacity building efforts. Common themes which emerged from the NGO Needs Assessment conducted during the past year have been integrated into a new Capacity Building Plan for the new fiscal year. Following is a brief summary of the technical assistance and training activities that are part of this Plan.

B.1 Technical Assistance

Technical assistance to be provided by AcciónSIDA to the NGOs will concentrate in assuring that they have optimum administrative systems in place. Assistance to be provided will include: computerization of accounting systems; development of human resource management system and development of organizational policies and procedures. In some organizations these are nonexistent and will need to be developed and in other organizations they only have to be improved or updated. Local experts will be contracted by AcciónSIDA to provide these services.

Of particular importance within AcciónSIDA's NGO strengthening efforts this year will be the development of a computerized information system for the Dermatological Institute's STI Department (DETS). DETS is one of the most important STI/HIV/AIDS service providers in the Dominican Republic, offering nearly 20,000 consultations through its main facility and eight seven other units established throughout the country. DETS is also one of the main reference centers for STI/HIV tests in the country. Due to the high number of STI/HIV cases it manages, DETS is also one of the main sources of statistical information on STI/HIV/AIDS in the Dominican Republic. Beneficiaries of this new information system include the National AIDS Program (DIGESITSS), national and international organizations working in health, students, and the medical and scientific community in general.

Technical assistance to be provided to the NGOs will also be focused in strengthening their capacity for strategic planning. AcciónSIDA will contract an organizational development expert with experience on NGOs to work on an individual basis with each of the organizations in developing their strategic plans.

B.2 Training Courses and Workshops

AcciónSIDA will also organize a series of training courses and workshops with local and international experts to strengthen the NGO's capacity to produce IEC materials. Specific workshop themes will be: production of educational materials, development of mass media information and validation of educational materials. Other workshops to be conducted will seek to enhance their ability to provide emotional support and counseling services and to define marketing strategies and institutional promotion strategies for sustainability.

C. Interinstitutional/Interagency Collaboration:

Ministry of Youth/“Soy Importante Project”: While formal funding for the John Hopkins/PCS activity terminated in 1999, AcciónSIDA will assist the Ministry of Youth, recently created by the new government, as it plans and implements the next phase of the “Soy Importante” (SI) project campaign. It will focus on the increase of access and use of health services for STIs/HIV/AIDS related issues. This campaign provides general public awareness of the importance of youth-focused activities, complementing the five youth-focused NGO grant activities, and the national Youth Network which is also supported by AcciónSIDA.

PROCETS/DIGESITSS: AcciónSIDA will continue to coordinate and offer technical assistance to the National AIDS Program as it is redefined by the new government. A focus of this activity will be the next phase of the public awareness mass media campaign, now that the European Community PREVIHSA project has ended. While additional funding will be required to maintain the level of media presence supported in the past two years, AcciónSIDA will commit a maintenance level of resources to this effort while additional resources are identified by the National Program.

UNAIDS: AcciónSIDA will continue to maintain its coordination with UNAIDS through its monthly meetings and other activities as needed. Of particular focus this year is a coordinated effort on the part of the donor community to provide timely and clear guidance to the new government leadership on the need to implement the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS, which was developed jointly with UNAIDS, AcciónSIDA, PREVIHSA and the National AIDS Program over the past two years.

PREVIHSA: AcciónSIDA's will be providing continuity to several of the initiatives lead by PREVIHSA, with a focus on the Human Rights Commission recommendations (focusing on the rights of HIV+ population) and its mass media messages. While this was not originally contemplated for AcciónSIDA, these are initiatives which contribute directly to the results package for AcciónSIDA, and it is important to not lose the momentum in these areas.

HORIZONS: AcciónSIDA will continue to provide the core NGO funding for the COIN and CEPROSH Commercial Sex Worker projects which are the host to the HORIZONS supported 100% Condom Policy study. This study is critical to showing that significant progress in condom use can be made when a combined effort from brothel owners, public sector and the sex workers themselves are focused on client acceptance of condom use.

III. Sub-Result Activity Areas

Sub-Result Area #1: HIV/AIDS/STI Information and Service Expansion

The 12 targeted interventions being supported by AcciónSIDA are directly contributing to the expansion of STI/HIV/AIDS information and services in the Dominican Republic. Other efforts to be supported by AcciónSIDA, such as the mass media campaign, will also contribute to this sub-result area. However, during this next fiscal year AcciónSIDA will continue to explore the possibility of integrating new public and private sector organizations, as well as the church, into STI/HIV/AIDS prevention efforts.

Sub-Result Area #2: Increase Risk Perception and Health Seeking Behaviors Among Vulnerable Groups

The overall strategy for this area will continue to include two primary components: 1) provide direct funding and technical assistance in IEC to NGOs for targeted behavioral interventions for particularly vulnerable groups; and 2) develop a national mass media campaign targeting youth in coordination with the NGOs, the National AIDS Program (DIGESITTS) and other agencies.

Sub-Result Area #3: Improve Political Environment for National Response to HIV/AIDS Epidemic

This sub-result area is of particular critical importance during this first year of the new national leadership, as all ministerial sectors will be defining new strategies and priorities. AcciónSIDA will actively participate in a coordinated effort to bring the new government up to speed on the progress made on the National Strategic Plan, with particular attention to securing the ongoing role and importance of the NGO sector in this national plan. AcciónSIDA staff will participate directly in donor and other agency coordination activities, as well as monitor the two-pronged policy development strategy of the past two years, with the participation of both INSALUD (representing the broader health sector) and the AIDS NGO Coalition. Specific activities will include:

- A. **“ConcertAcción” Theme Groups:** AcciónSIDA, through its contract with INSALUD, will continue the series of thematic groups on selected strategic topics (Condom Policy, Tourism, Sexual Education, Labor and the Bateyes), as well as provide support to the ongoing Human Rights Commission. These working groups will include sectoral leaders, technical experts and institutional representation chosen for their knowledge in each area, and will develop specific recommendations for public events, training activities, media placement and other activities aimed at promoting an advocacy agenda in their area. Other working groups may be developed as new sectors and issues are identified.
- B. **AIDS NGO Coalition:** AcciónSIDA will provide support to this coalition during the next year so that it is able to play a leading role among the AIDS NGOs and in sensitizing and educating the new governmental authorities about STI/HIV/AIDS. The Coalition will also work alongside with INSALUD in continuing the thematic groups in which the non-governmental sector has played an important role, such as tourism, human rights and labor.
- c. **National Youth Network:** Through the CASCO/PROFAMILIA youth project AcciónSIDA will continue to support the National Youth Network for AIDS Prevention. This group is increasingly gaining a leading role in drawing the attention of decision-makers and the general population in regards to the AIDS epidemic and the need to develop national youth policies. During the last two years the network was instrumental in the development of a national youth law which is pending approval in Congress.
- D. **Children Infected and Affected by HIV/AIDS:** In response to a local initiative from USAID/DR , AcciónSIDA will coordinate and host a consultation process with public and private sector organizations working with children and HIV/AIDS. This process should lead to the development of a national agenda to draw the attention and resources necessary to address the problem of children infected and affected. It is probable that as a first step a study will be conducted to identify the impact of HIV/AIDS on children of the Dominican Republic. This information will serve as the basis for the development of a grants program.

Sub-Result Area #4: Develop Affected Population Support Systems

Building on the dramatic progress made in the first two years of efforts in this area, AcciónSIDA will continue to support the two NGO grants (Project Clara and REDOVIIH+) focusing on building community-based infrastructure for the HIV+ population. The initial success of these projects makes it clear that resources must be found to promote the rapid replication and expansion of the local support group model to communities now not served. A significant limiting factor to this replication of this strategy is the lack of human resources capable of building new local support systems in new communities. Exploration of ways to ramp up small group formation will be a focus of AcciónSIDA’s efforts during this coming year.

AcciónSIDA Project Workplan
October 1, 2000 – September 30, 2001

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	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Responsible Team member/ Coordinator</i>	<i>2000</i>			<i>2001</i>								
			<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Ago</i>	<i>Sep</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>Institutional Development/Capacity Building Activities</i>	Technical Assist./ IEC Officer												
	Computerization of Accounting Systems	Ceneyda & Victor	X	X	X	X								
	Development of Human Resource Management System	Ceneyda & Consultant			X	X	X							
	Development and updating of Policy and Procedure Manuals	Ceneyda & Consultant		X	X	X	X	X	X					
	Support to Dermatological Institute’s STI Department	Ceneyda, Tanya	X	X	X									
	Development of NGOs’ Strategic Plans	Ceneyda & Consultant	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
	Workshop on Production of Educational Materials	Ceneyda & Consultant	X											
	Workshop on Provision of Emotional Support Counseling Services	Ceneyda & Consultant						X						
	Workshop on Development of Mass Media Information	Ceneyda & Consultant					X							
	Workshop on Marketing Strategies and Institutional Promotion	Ceneyda & Consultant					X							
	Workshop on Validation of Educational Materials	Ceneyda & Consultant						X						

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